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Souvenir.

FERNS, FLOWERS, ETC.

— OF —

BERMUDA,

— WITH —

*A Short Sketch*

— OF ITS —

*History and Appearance.*

*By J. L. Robinson.*



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BERMUDA,

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A SHORT SKETCH OF ITS HISTORY AND  
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BY J. L. ROBINSON.

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TRINITY Church, Hamilton, Bermuda, was destroyed by fire on Sunday morning, January 27, 1884.

In May, 1886, the foundation-stone of the new church was laid, and since then the work of rebuilding has progressed as steadily as the circumstances will permit.

The new church is a pleasing and substantial structure. It possesses graceful outlines, and is composed of good material. Its foundation is excellent, and all the work has been executed in a neat, tasteful, and honest manner.

We offer our warmest thanks to the kind friends who have helped us to rebuild our

church. But a great deal still remains to be done, and the work is retarded by the scarcity of funds to carry it on.

About £3,000 are wanted to finish the nave and make it ready for divine service. An Episcopal Church is greatly needed in the town of Hamilton.

Those who live in a large country have no idea of the difficulty experienced in raising money in a small and isolated community.

To visitors especially we now appeal for help.

Will you, kind reader, do your part?

Subscriptions received at *Royal Gazette* office, Hamilton, Bermuda.

5 Ja 1904 W.O.W.



## FERNS, FLOWERS, ETC., OF BERMUDA.



“For our enchanted Islands which is  
Kept as some say with spirits, will  
Wrong no friend or foe, but yield  
All men their expectations.”

—*Silvanus Fourdain.*

THE Bermudas, “Fairest gems of the Sea,” are six hundred and twenty-five miles from Cape Hatteras, in North America, which is the nearest land. These islets lie on the bosom of the Atlantic Ocean, caressed by her waves when in gentle humor, and when in anger lashed by her furious storms.

The sea, beautiful in all her moods, is almost unique in and around these lovely islands. At one time she is rippling and flashing in the sunshine like millions of diamonds ; again, she is still blue and transparent, with the most delicate aquamarine shades, so clear that you can see fishes of many hues and shapes darting and gliding

around the corals, oysters, scallops, and sponges lying at the bottom. The agitated white sand held in a state of suspension, causes the water to maintain, continually, this wonderful, clear, and luminous appearance. These islands are the tops of some sea mountains, built upon by the coral insect, and raised to their present height on the south side by sand drifts.

They are possibly peaks of the lost "Island of Atlantis," which "sank to the bottom of the deep, deep sea," ages before the Christian era.

If this legend is true, Bermuda has a submerged continent lying beneath her.

These islands take their name from Juan Bermudez, who discovered them in the year

1515. The first recorded mention of them is in the writings of Gonsalvo Ovieda, an adventurer and historian, who sailed in the ship commanded by Juan Bermudez.

Spanish Rock, on the south side of Smith's Parish, is known as the oldest landmark in Bermuda; it bears a monogram resembling T. F., accompanied by a St. George's cross, and is doubtless the work of Ferdinand Camelo, who had at one time a commission from Philip II. of Spain to settle these islands.

In 1593 Henry May was shipwrecked on this coast. In his narrative he relates how they built a ship of cedar, using lime mixed with tortoise oil to fill the seams. For food, they took on board thirteen tortoises, and



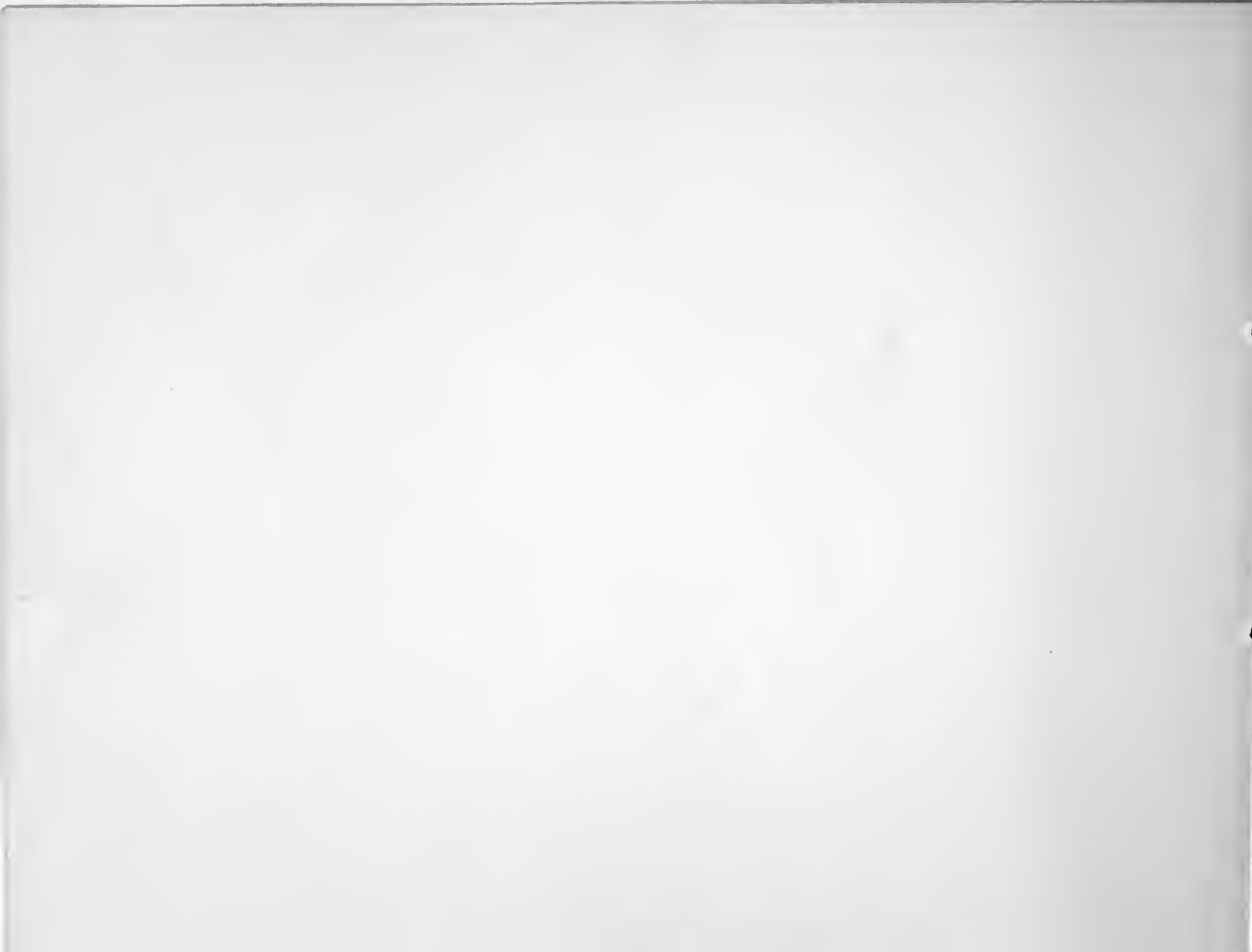
now known as the Public Garden, in the old town of St. George.

In 1876 Gen. Sir John Lefroy, then Governor of the Colony, caused a marble tablet to be erected to the memory of the brave and heroic Admiral.

Bermuda had at this time a very uncanny reputation. She was called the "Island of Devils," and was "feared and avoided above any place in the world." It appears, on a closer acquaintance, that she by no means deserved all the wicked things that had been said of her. Silvanus Jourdain, who was one of those shipwrecked with Sir G. Somers, gives his impressions in the following words: "These Islands have ever been accounted as an enchanted pile of rockes, and

a desert inhabitation for Dieuls; but all the fairies of the rocks were but flocks of birds, and all the Dieuls that haunted the woods were but herds of swine. Wherefore my opinion of this Island is, that whereas it hath been and is still accounted the most dangerous, infortunate, and most forlorne place in the world, it is in truth the richest, healthfullest, and most pleasing land, and meerely natural, as ever man sat foot upon. Wee hae gauen a hunting and lien out night by night for hogges; and if we had been wett by weather or by wading, wee may lie us down so wett to sleep with a Palmetto leaf or two under us and one above us, and we sleep soundly without taking any cold, or being disturbed with anything else."





“ ‘The Great Sinne of Witchcraft’ was one of the prevailing crimes in 1600. In Bermuda Satan was quite at home; he entered, it is true, into the souls of only a few men, but a large number of women nourished him, a circumstance which could generally be proved by a mole or wart or some blemish on the skin, and to them was given power to work ‘spells of evil’ on certain innocent individuals. The suffering innocents on their part feeling themselves to be the victims of the Infernal regions, conceived it to be their duty to render up all suspected persons to justice; accordingly a number of witches were tried, convicted, and punished. Some were ducked, some hanged, and one named Sarah

Basset was burnt to death. The day on which the last Bermuda witch met her fate was extremely hot, and from that circumstance arises the saying when a very hot day occurs, that it is ‘A regular Sally Basset day.’ ”

A little later in the century the “Ducking Stool” was an institution exclusively enjoyed by women; if a husband and wife quarreled, it was generally found to be the woman’s fault, so she was taken to the north side of Pembroke Parish and ducked in the water from two to five times, as was thought advisable by her judges.

Sometime’s these entertainments were varied by making her stand in a cage in a public place or in church, wrapped in a

white sheet. These little reminiscences make one sigh for the "Good old times."

The nineteenth century cannot offer such a novel programme as the seventeenth afforded, for the laws now are carried out in this country in a very prosaic and impartial manner, but in visiting the different places of attraction it is hoped that much may still be found to interest and amuse the visitor.

There is regular steam communication between New York and Bermuda, with regular weekly departures from each place during the winter months, and regular fortnightly departures during the summer months. The Quebec Steamship Co. carry the mails between these two ports, and sup-

ply comfortable ships for passengers. There is also a steamer plying monthly between Halifax, Bermuda, and Jamaica. This boat also carries mails, and is comfortably fitted for passengers.

Bermuda possesses two towns, St. George's a quaint old place, and Hamilton, the seat of Government.

These islands are surrounded by a natural fortification of coral reefs, but in addition to these have a dockyard and military strongholds at Prospect, St. George's, and other points, and form an important naval and military station of Great Britain. The floating dock in Bermuda is the largest in the world.

The colony is under the direction of a Governor, Council, and House of Assembly.





bly. The Chief-Justice and assistant justices administer the law.

The first coin introduced into Bermuda was the "hog penny," coined in England. It had a hog on one side, and on the reverse a ship under full sail. Tobacco was used by the early settlers instead of money. The "hog penny" is now very rare, and is valuable only as a relic. At the present time English money is in circulation. But Americans have no difficulty in changing their dollars into the circulating currency.

The Bermudas cover an area of about twenty square miles. It is so small that the ground seems as if it had not room to spread out, so runs up into numerous little steep, green-clad hills. The sides and the val-

leys below being thickly studded over with houses, white roads and cottages with small pieces of cultivated land, where the renowned onion, tomato, potato, and other vegetables flourish very early in the year, there being no chilling frosts, no winter's snow to retard their growth.

Geraniums, roses, lilies, etc., bloom all the year round in the open air without protection. The oleander, palm, palmetto, century plant, bamboo, fiddle wood, India rubber, pride of India, flamboyau, calabash, and many other tropical plants grow in great abundance; while in rocky situations the cedar and sage, with their duller hue, tone down the fresh green tints of the deciduous trees, and make the whole more

harmonious. Flitting in and out of the leafy covert may be seen the cardinal bird, with his red plumage and cockade ; the blue-bird, with his crimson vest ; and running about beneath the trees, the quaint little ground dove, as unobtrusive in his manner as in his appearance.

Bermuda possesses numerous caves adorned with stalactites, hanging from the roof in every stage of formation. When lighted up with flaming branches of dry cedar they present a weird and startling appearance. The mouth of these caves is sometimes almost hidden by trailing vines of wild convolvulus and flowering myrtle. Paynter's Vale and Walsingham Caves and Moore's calabash tree, under which the poet loved

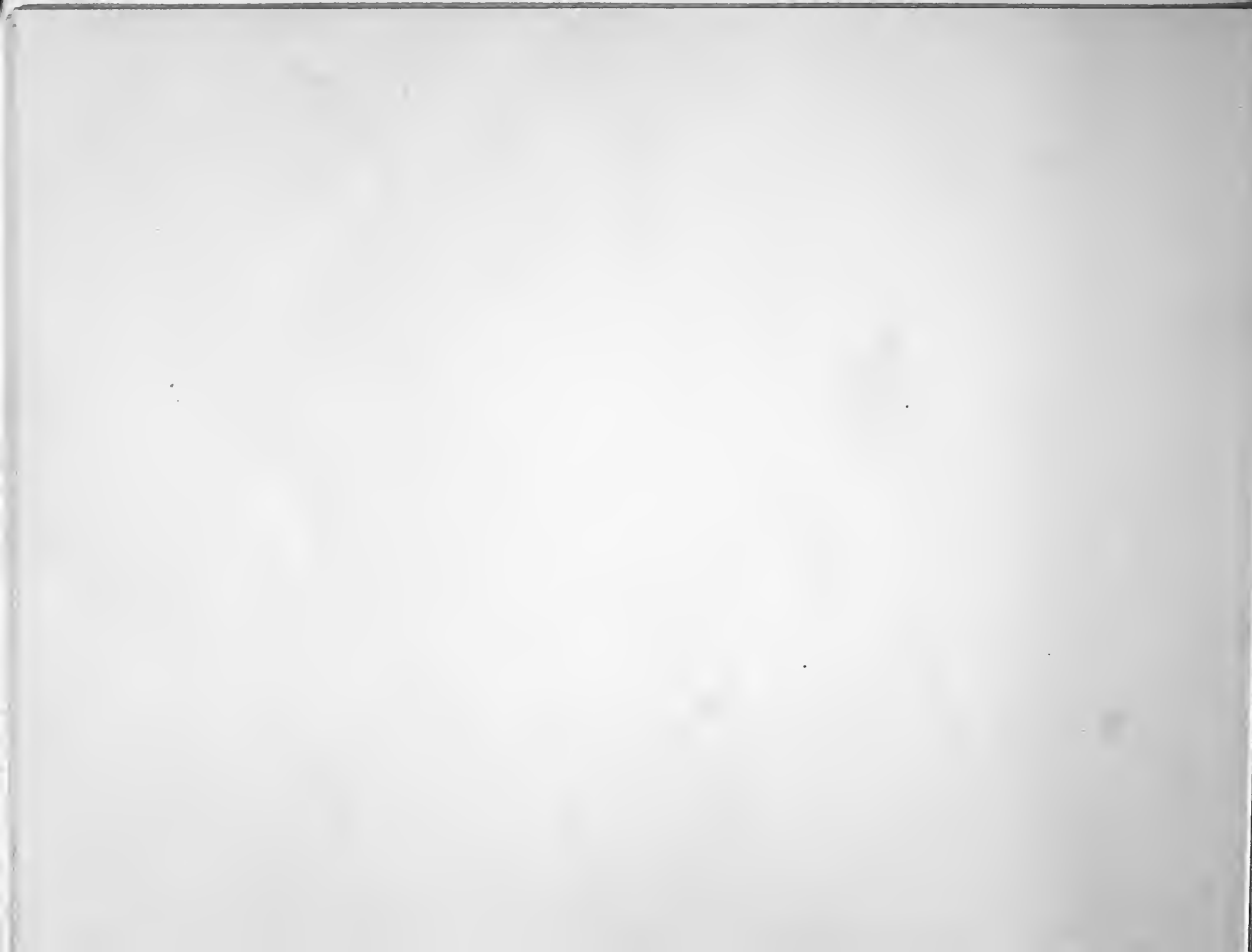
to sit, are much frequented and pleasant places for picnics. Harrington Sound is a beautiful sheet of water. It is almost a lake, but has one very narrow passage leading into the sea through which the tide ebbs and flows.

The "Devil's Hole," sometimes called "Neptune's Grotto," contains many curious-looking fish. Among them are the grouper, the snapper, and the beautiful angel-fish.

There are two lighthouses. That on Gibbs' Hill, in Port Royal, is a splendid revolving light, and may be seen on a clear night thirty miles distant. The other is on St. David's Island ; it is a white, fixed light.

Sea-bathing in this semi-tropical climate is a great luxury. The shores abound with



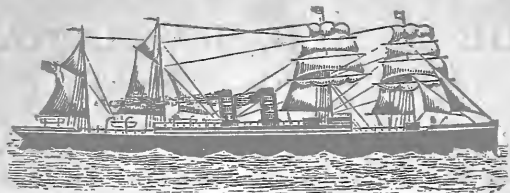








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